

every day about what is the law of the land and what is the answer to disputes among us as individuals and entities. If that judge is fearful that their decisions at the end of the day will lead to violence against them and their families, how long will their judgment not be affected and, therefore, how long will we as a nation be able to say that the rule of law is truly in place?

So I ask my Senate colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and memory of Daniel Anderl. Let us do the right thing and unanimously pass the Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021 named after him.

So, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 190, S. 2340; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, I agree that members of the judicial branch need better protection. In fact, I have been appalled that leftwing pro-abortion groups released the addresses of our Supreme Court Justices and that there have been people at their houses trying to intimidate them. It is appalling and shouldn't happen. Whoever it was that released the addresses of the Supreme Court Justices should be punished.

So I think there is bipartisan support in this. I was disappointed though that the White House has not condemned the release of the Supreme Court Justices. I think that ranting and raving and noise all night is disturbing the peace and isn't actually First Amendment protected speech.

But if recent years have taught us anything, it is that Members of the legislative branch also need protection. That was clear in 2011 when Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was tragically shot while doing the most important part of her job, meeting with constituents.

Words cannot express how happy and inspired I was to see Congresswoman Giffords was in the Chamber as her husband, Senator KELLY, was recently sworn in, but words also cannot express the pain felt by the families of the people who were killed and wounded that day.

That should have been a wakeup call to better protect Members of Congress and, in doing so, better protect the people around them. But just a few years ago, a shooter nearly killed Congressman STEVE SCALISE during practice for the annual charity baseball game. I know. I was there. One staffer was shot less than 10 feet from me.

The Capitol Hill police were there and saved our lives. Had they not been there, things might have been much

worse. But the Capitol Police aren't everywhere, and our families live in many cities outside of Washington. Extending the provisions of this bill to Members of Congress would do nothing to change the content. In fact, I believe our legislative changes add four words "and Members of Congress."

So I think these protections actually are good protections. I agree with the spirit of the bill; I agree with the letter of the bill, but really it should be judicial folks protected as well as Congress.

My substitute amendment, which I will offer for unanimous consent, would make a simple change. My amendment would simply extend the protections that would be offered to the judicial branch to the legislative branch.

So I ask the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn and that the Senator modify his request to include my substitute amendment which is at the desk; that the substitute amendment be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I appreciate the desire of the Senator from Kentucky to protect Members of the legislative branch. I wish someone would have come to the floor the other night when we had a rush, which I thought was important, to protect Supreme Court Justices. That was a moment in which that could have been pursued. That went through lightning speed. That didn't even have a hearing. It didn't go through the process of the Judiciary Committee like this bill has, but there was no such call.

And so I would work with my colleague on a separate legislation to provide protections for a different universe, including a legislative one. I know there are other Members who want to provide these protections to everyone. The question is that none of that has been moving on the floor. None of that has had the time and attention in the committee processes to ferret out the challenges, the issues, and whatnot. But every day we see violence against judges across the country, and we have an opportunity to take a moment of tragedy and turn it into something powerful.

And I would work with my colleague on his desire, but at this point, because I am concerned that what we would do is not find a pathway in the House because there are already challenges in the House, even to the simple proposition of limiting these protections to Members of the Federal judiciary, I am afraid that such an expansion under this bill would render it useless in terms of any action in the House, and so I have to object to the proposed amendment but with a desire to work with my colleague on anything I can to move forward in a different way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, just a brief remark. You know, I regret that in the goal to protect ourselves, we can't protect others.

Not every law where we seek to provide a protection is ultimately grandly approached. I think that the passage of this bill would send a clear message to our Federal judiciary, who are not on the awesome Supreme Court, that they will be protected just the same as any Supreme Court Justice and that they can make their judgments without fear that violence will come their way to them or their family because of the decisions they make in our society.

And then building upon that success, we can try to build and create greater protections for others. But this maximalist position is, unfortunately, one that, at the end of the day, doesn't provide protection for anyone.

And so I will keep coming back to the floor. We will keep working to try to make this happen because this young man who died senselessly and his parents who had to bury their only son—his memory cannot die in vain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

MEXICO

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about what I believe are unlawful actions taken by the Government of Mexico against Vulcan Materials Company, which is headquartered in Birmingham, AL.

Vulcan is the Nation's largest producer of construction aggregates, primarily crushed stone, sand, and gravel.

Vulcan is also a major producer of aggregates-based construction materials like asphalt and ready-mixed concrete.

The materials produced by Vulcan are used in nearly all forms of construction, like infrastructure repairs to bridges or roads or when a new office building is being built.

While headquartered in Alabama, Vulcan has 720 facilities and more than 12,000 employees across the United States.

Its reach is also international. Vulcan has operated a quarry in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico since the 1980s. The quarry supplies aggregates to Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. Vulcan has quarried limestone legally in Mexico on land that it owns for over 30 years. It has full ownership of its property in Mexico and owns the limestone reserves on the property. Vulcan also operates the only deepwater port on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. Vulcan operates that port because Vulcan built that port.

Furthermore, it is my understanding that Vulcan has always complied with Mexican law and permitting, which is why I was shocked to hear Mexican

President Lopez Obrador announce that he would pursue legal actions to close Vulcan's operations. His baseless claim is that the company is operating illegally in Mexico after 30 years. That statement is categorically false.

Unfortunately, President Obrador followed through with his threat for legal action. Last week, Mexican Government officials unexpectedly presented local Vulcan employees with orders to immediately cease operations on Vulcan's own land in Mexico. I believe this shutdown, ordered by the President of Mexico, represents a baseless attack on a U.S. company and demonstrates a disregard for the rule of law.

But even before shutdown orders were issued, Vulcan was subject to public harassment and intimidation tactics from the President of Mexico, including the Mexican Navy sending troops to the entrance of the Vulcan facility for the last several days before last week, the Mexican Navy flying Blackhawk helicopters and drones over Vulcan's property, the Mexican Navy sending patrol boats to Vulcan's harbor, and the Mexican Government withholding the issuance of a routine customs permit from January through mid-February.

These actions by the President and Mexican Government are contrary to the most basic principles of international law and the free-trade agreements that bind our two countries together. These actions also go against the objectives and principles jointly set by the U.S. and Mexican Governments as part of the high-level economic dialogue established in September of 2021.

However, President Obrador's attack on Vulcan is bigger than just one company. It undermines the rule of law in Mexico, ignores international law and free-trade agreements, weakens our bilateral relationship, and will discourage future U.S. investments in Mexico.

We have all heard about the actions President Lopez Obrador has attempted to take against U.S. energy companies in Mexico. This latest action is an example of just how far he is willing to go.

These actions will also have a direct impact on the supply chain for major infrastructure projects in the United States. We cannot allow this to stand.

Back in February, Senator SHELBY and I wrote Secretary Blinken to express alarm over actions Mexico was taking against Vulcan. It turns out we were right to be concerned. So I urge the Biden administration to take appropriate action in order to ensure Vulcan, a great American company, is able to maintain critical operations in the country of Mexico.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, America commemorates National Police Week—a time to pay tribute to the men and women of law enforcement and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend our communities.

One of the most emblematic reminders of that sacrifice is the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which, of course, is here in Washington, DC. It is a beautiful tribute to the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials who have died in the line of duty and features marble walls engraved with more than 23,000 names. Each of those names represents a hero to their community, to their State, and to our Nation. Sadly, the names of 90 Texans were added to that memorial this year. These officers gave their lives in service to their communities and to our country, and we thank them, and we thank their families for that service.

As we mourn the loss of so many of these heroes, this week is also a time to honor and thank those who continue to serve and protect our neighborhoods, our schools, and our places of work.

I am grateful for the dedicated police officers who work in Texas communities, from Brownsville to Amarillo, from Beaumont to El Paso, and everywhere in between. That includes not only the municipal police officers but also the sheriffs, the constables, the Border Patrol agents, and law enforcement officials of all types who keep Texans safe.

Like all of my colleagues here in Congress, I am also grateful to the men and women of the Capitol Police, who safeguard this building and the Members, the staff, the journalists, and many visitors who come here every day.

A career in law enforcement is never easy, but the past few years have really shown a light on the challenges America's law enforcement officers face.

First came the pandemic. While millions of Americans hunkered down at home to slow the spread of the virus, law enforcement couldn't do that. They had to be out and about in the community. They had to lace up their boots and go to work every day. The risk of the virus meant that even friendly interactions with the public could carry grave risks.

More than half of 619 heroes added to the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year died of COVID-related causes. More than half of the 619 who died, died of COVID-related causes. It is a deep reminder of the losses our country has experienced over the last 2 years.

The stresses of the pandemic also led to a surge in drug overdose deaths and an increase in family violence, putting an even tighter strain on officers serving and protecting our communities.

At the same time, we have seen a shocking increase in violent crime and homicide rates across the country.

In addition to these challenges, conversations about racial justice and police brutality have put all of the law enforcement community under a bright spotlight. Sadly, this debate has, in part, perhaps inadvertently, contributed to a hostile environment for many of these officers—people painting with a broad brush, claiming that all law enforcement officers were somehow racist or that the system was rotten to the core with systemic racism. Well, that kind of rhetoric and those kinds of ideas undermine the morale and are a disservice, in my opinion, to the men and women who do not share any of those prejudices, thankfully.

Well, law enforcement has been the victim of violent attacks during this last year. According to the FBI, intentional killings of law enforcement officers have reached a 20-year high.

Now, don't get me wrong, there is no doubt we need to continue to work together to improve transparency and accountability within police forces, and we need to strengthen the relationship between the police and the communities in which they serve. I think those are things that all of us can agree on. But as a country, we need to remember that the actions of a few do not define the rest. The vast majority of our law enforcement officers are honorable, dedicated public servants who go above and beyond the call of duty to keep our families and our communities safe and are committed to improving accountability and trust in law enforcement.

We need to do more to support those brave men and women who are doing the right thing, who are serving honorably at great sacrifice to themselves and their family, and work with them to help rebuild public trust.

Here in the Senate, I have introduced a range of bills to ensure that our officers have the training, the resources, and the support they need to do their jobs.

Given the undeserved hostility many officers are facing, Congress should pass the Back the Blue Act, which makes clear our support for the public servants who have dedicated their lives to protecting our communities. This legislation adds mandatory penalties and makes it a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill a law enforcement officer but also a Federal judge or a federally funded public safety officer, and it makes it a Federal crime to assault a law enforcement officer.

As I said, these men and women put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe, and we need to do more to make it clear that violence committed against a law enforcement officer will not be tolerated, period. The Back the Blue Act sends a strong message to the more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in America that they are supported, that they are appreciated, and that violence against them will not stand.